



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
Maryland's Social Services Agency



MEDIA ADVISORY

For immediate release:

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For more information:

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**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES TO HOST PUBLIC FORUM TO
DISCUSS MEANING OF NEW FEDERAL/STATE CHILD WELFARE DATA**

BALTIMORE – Want to know how Maryland is doing in caring for children in its foster care system? Want to discuss the strengths of Maryland's child welfare system and talk about the areas where we still need to improve?

The Maryland Department of Human Resources (DHR) is hosting a community forum to discuss recent data culled by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that assesses Maryland's efforts to provide greater safety and permanency for children in foster care.

WHO:

DHR Secretary Brenda Donald

Representatives from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Advocates, stakeholders and members of the public

WHAT:

Community forum designed to explain and discuss Maryland's progress in child welfare reform and what future reforms are necessary. The event is free and open to the public and the media, but an RSVP is requested. RSVP to Wanda Jones at wjones4@dhr.state.md.us or call her at 410/767-7758.

WHEN:

Wednesday, April 15 – 9:30 a.m. to noon

(light breakfast at 9:30 a.m., forum starts at 10 a.m.)

WHERE:

The University of Maryland School of Social Work – First Floor Auditorium

525 West Redwood Street

Baltimore, MD 21201

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The Maryland Department of Human Resources is the state's social services provider. The agency collaborates with 24 local jurisdictions to: provide foster care, adoption and protective services to children; collect and distribute child support payments; and provide temporary cash, food stamps and medical assistance to families. It also administers programs for homeless persons, refugees, migrant workers, victims of crime and women who are displaced, battered or assaulted. Last year, DHR served 638,000 people in need. In terms of its annual budget, DHR is Maryland's fourth largest state agency.

- Martin O'Malley, Governor
- Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
- Brenda Donald, Secretary